United Nations S/2017/717

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 17 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I refer to our previous letters, the most recent of which were the identical letters dated 2 August 2017 (S/2017/675), concerning the barbaric attacks on innocent Syrian civilians committed by the "international coalition" led by the United States of America. In that connection, and on instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit the following information:

On Wednesday, 16 August 2017, "coalition" warplanes once again bombarded residential neighbourhoods inhabited by civilians in the city of Raqqah, killing 17 civilians and injuring dozens more, most of whom were women and children, and causing material damage to infrastructure and public and private property.

In three successive air raids, "coalition" aircraft deliberately targeted Sayyidat al-Bisharah Church in the Thuknah neighbourhood of Raqqah. Although there were no Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant terrorists inside the church, it was completely destroyed.

United States warplanes and "coalition" aircraft continue to bombard residential neighbourhoods and communities inhabited by civilians and employ arsenals of "smart" missiles, guided bombs and internationally prohibited white phosphorous bombs. This systematic and deliberate conduct by the coalition openly flouts the most basic principles set out in international law, international humanitarian law and human rights instruments and attests to the belief of successive American administrations that might makes right and in the law of the jungle. Such conduct is contrary to the obligations of a permanent member of the Security Council, the fundamental responsibility of which is to maintain international peace and security.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest possible terms the crimes committed by the "international coalition" against Syrian civilians. Those crimes are, in fact, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the participating States, which claim that they respect international humanitarian law, to dissolve promptly that illegitimate coalition, which was established without a request from the Syrian Government and outside recognized international and United Nations frameworks, or to withdraw from it, as it contravenes all the values in which we believe.

Please recycle

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security, and to put an end to that coalition's crimes against Syrian civilians and hold it accountable for them.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2017/718

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 August 2017
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 16 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 13-16 August 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

17-14721 (E) 280817 290817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 16 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (13 August 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 11 incidents of gunfire in the following governorates: 7 in Aleppo, 2 in Ladhiqiyah and 2 in Qunaytirah.

The Turkish representative office has reported three violations: two in Damascus governorate and one in Homs governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations.

Russian field medics provided medical assistance to 88 people.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, four ceasefire agreements have been signed with Jubb Khasarah, Jarjisah, Harat al-Gharbi and Zawr Abu Dardah in Hama governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,165.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (14 August 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire: four in Aleppo governorate and one in Ladhiqiyah governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported three violations: two in Damascus governorate and one in Idlib governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with Dusariyah, Ramzun and Uzniyah in Hama governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,168.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (15 August 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported seven incidents of gunfire in the following governorates: three in Damascus, two in Aleppo, one in Dar'a and one in Qunaytirah.

The Turkish representative office has reported five violations: three in Damascus governorate and two in Idlib governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations.

Russian field medics provided medical assistance to 79 people.

Two United Nations humanitarian operations were carried out: 18 truckloads of United Nations humanitarian cargo (food products) were delivered to Tall al-Dhahab in Dar'a governorate; and the Russian airline Abakan Air parachuted a total of 21 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) near to the city of Dayr-al-Zawr.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire agreements have been signed.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,168.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (16 August 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported seven incidents of gunfire: six in Ladhiqiyah governorate and one in Aleppo governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported four violations: three in Damascus governorate and one in Idlib governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out three humanitarian operations: the delivery of 1.9 tons of food products to the local population in Khatyn, Aleppo governorate; the delivery of 2.7 tons of food products to the local population in Dayr Ba'albah, Homs governorate; and the delivery of 2.3 tons of food products to the local population in the Wafidin camp, Damascus governorate.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo was 6.9 tons.

Humanitarian aid was provided to 1,150 people.

In total, 1,583 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

Russian field medics provided medical assistance to 568 people.

One United Nations humanitarian operation was carried out: the Russian airline Abakan Air parachuted a total of 21 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) near to the city of Dayr-al-Zawr.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, 16 ceasefire agreements have been signed with Maqtal al-Zaydi, Umm al-Qaramil, Buwaydah al-Kabirah, Buwaydah al-Saghirah, Nu'maniyah, Buraydah, Tall Allush, Kafr Haddad, Ziyarah, Mubasratun, Sallum, Shaykh Sulayman, Balantah and Hatbah in Aleppo governorate; and with Talafih and Ramliyah in Idlib governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,184.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

United Nations S/2017/719

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 17 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to the identical letters of the Israeli regime, dated 28 June 2017, addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2017/555), containing fabricated information and baseless allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following:

1. The claim made in the above-mentioned letter regarding the test launch of a ballistic missile on 15 November 2016 and the use of a specific marking as target practice is a sheer falsehood. Spreading such disinformation represents a deliberate abuse of United Nations procedures in order to divert international attention from the real threat posed to the regional peace and security emanating from Israel's expansionist policy and its continued practice of occupation and aggression.

2. It has been reiterated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, including in its statement following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) contained in document S/2015/550, that Iranian military capabilities, including ballistic missiles, have not been designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons and, thus, are outside the purview of the Security Council resolution.

3. It is ludicrous and hypocritical that Israel, in its letter, invokes the parameters and guidelines of an export control regime that it has never respected. The development, testing, stockpiling and deployment of ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons by the Israeli regime bears testimony to the fact that it has no respect for the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and also demonstrates the failure of the Control Regime to prevent the export of the very missile technology, as well as ballistic missiles, capable of delivering nuclear weapons to the Israeli regime. It should be underlined that such a non-transparent and exclusive export control regime, which was established outside the United Nations framework, provides no legal basis for application to the terms of paragraph 3 of annex B of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015).

4. The heinous terrorist attacks by Da'esh in Tehran on 7 June 2017, as detailed in my letter dated 9 June 2017 (S/2017/489), similar to those that have occurred in many other cities around the world, proves once again the importance of appropriately addressing terrorism and violent extremism as a common global threat. The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined in its fight against terrorism and violent extremism which is, by no coincidence, actively supported by the Israeli

regime, inter alia, under the guise of humanitarian assistance to the injured terrorists in Syria.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2017/720

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2017
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 16 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a position paper prepared by the Russian Federation on the modalities for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and include this information in the next biannual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015).

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

17-14403 (E) 240817 240817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 16 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Non-paper on issues related to Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a member of the United Nations as well as a member of many multilateral non-proliferation mechanisms, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran are in accordance with international law. There is no legal prohibition on the development by the Islamic Republic of Iran of missile and space programmes, including within the framework of Security Council resolutions.

Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) contains only a call (which is by all means not a prohibition) to refrain from activities related to ballistic missiles that are designed to be capable of carrying nuclear weapons, including launches with the use of ballistic missile technology.

There is no information that Iranian ballistic missiles are specifically designed to carry nuclear weapons. No Security Council Member States, including the authors of the reports on Iranian launches, have submitted any information to the contrary.

In accordance with the conclusion of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Tehran does not possess nuclear weapons, and it does not carry out work on the development thereof. Moreover, there is no evidence of Tehran's deployment of infrastructure for the storage or servicing of nuclear weapons. Such kinds of facilities are certain to be uncovered by national surveillance or intelligence means.

There is also a whole list of specific technical details that experts use in order to identify whether a missile is designed to carry a nuclear weapon. Those details include the presence of a special warhead platform, a nuclear weapon guidance system and a device preventing unsanctioned access to the nuclear weapon.

The Iranian Simorgh is a space launch vehicle, namely, a rocket designed to deliver a payload to circumterrestrial orbit or outer space. That is why, from the technical point of view, it is clear that it cannot be designed specifically to deliver nuclear weapons, and it does not therefore fall under item 3 of annex B of resolution 2231 (2015).

As in several de facto similar reports provided by some Member States on Iranian missile launches, the document dated 2 August 2017 does not provide technical evidence on the Simorgh missile launch conducted on 27 July 2017, in particular proof of its capability to deliver nuclear weapons. The document is based upon speculations and attempts to once again review the scope and character of procedures established by resolution 2231 (2015).

It is worth recalling that no prohibition on cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran on missile-related items is in existence. Resolution 2231 (2015) set an arrangement that provides for the approval of the Security Council for transfers to the Islamic Republic of Iran of items included in the missile-related control list in document S/2015/546 and items that States believe can be used to create means for the delivery of nuclear weapons.

Given that the missile and outer space programmes of the Islamic Republic of Iran are not linked to nuclear weapons and are not covered by resolution 2231 (2015), the request of some Member States to the Secretary-General to provide a detailed and comprehensive report on Iranian activities in missile and outer space-related areas is not well-founded. Such a request could only be sent to the Secretary-General through a Security Council decision.

The Russian Federation would also like to underline that regional political matters are not a part of the mandate of resolution 2231 (2015).

The Russian Federation is under the impression that someone is artificially blaming the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to its space launch vehicle and is trying to create circumstances that would force the Security Council to impose sanctions against Tehran. There are no grounds for such action yet.

United Nations S/2017/721

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 August 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 18 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 1 August 2017 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, regarding the request for a copy of the archive of the United Nations Compensation Commission (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed Sahib **Marzooq**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

17-14710 (E) 290817 300817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 18 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

As you are aware, the Security Council created an entirely new type of mechanism in order to hold Iraq responsible for paying compensation for damage that was caused when it entered Kuwait in 1990 and to settle claims by deducting the requisite sums from the oil exports of Iraq. In its resolution 687 (1991), the Security Council not only affirmed the principle of international responsibility in connection with the payment of compensation for that damage in accordance with the principles of international law, but also established a mechanism that would mandate compensation, consider and settle claims and deduct the requisite sums. To that end, the Council established, pursuant to its resolution 692 (1991), the United Nations Compensation Commission and the Compensation Fund. Iraq was thus deprived of its right to negotiate with the claimants or seek a mutually agreeable settlement with them. From the time that it began its work and up to the time that it settled the compensation claims, the Commission did not allow Iraq to participate in any relevant aspects of the process. It did not allow Iraq to review or comment on the compensation claims or to present legal defences, nor did it allow Iraq the opportunity to defend itself as the respondent. The Commission deprived Iraq of even the most basic legal right to object to or appeal against the decisions made by the Panels of Commissioners responsible for settling claims. Moreover, the nature of the Commission's work was more political than legal. Despite this unfair treatment, Iraq, which entered a new era following the 2003 changeover, strived in all earnestness to work constructively with the Commission in order to resolve this thorny issue, in the hope that the Commission would strive to ensure that Iraq was treated fairly and to remedy the injustices that Iraq had suffered as a result of the implementation of such unprecedented procedures.

One of the most pressing legal issues facing Iraq today with respect to the question of compensation is that many individuals and other parties have filed lawsuits in Iraqi courts claiming compensation for their real estate holdings in Iraq or for other damages they maintain that they had suffered when Iraq entered Kuwait. In order for the Iraqi courts to settle such lawsuits fairly and equitably, the Commission must offer legal assistance to those courts by providing a complete archive of compensation claims and the decisions taken by the Commission's Governing Council in respect of those claims. This would enable the courts to determine whether claimants have already been awarded compensation by the Commission for the damages claimed in the lawsuits and thus prevent them from being compensated twice for the same damages; that is to say, it would prevent them from being awarded compensation for the same damages by both the Commission and the courts. Iraq has an unquestionable legal right to such assistance, as without it the Iraqi courts would be unable to rule on cases concerning damages that had been caused when Iraq entered Kuwait. In light of this legal fact, Iraq submitted a number of official requests to the secretariat of the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva asking it to provide the complete archive for all categories of settled compensation claims (individual, government and corporate). It also asked the secretariat to confirm whether certain Kuwaiti citizens with claims before the Iraqi courts had received decisions from the Commission. However, those requests were rejected and the Commission declined to provide any documents or information in that regard, citing the provisional rules for claims procedure and the confidential nature of its work. This is unacceptable. The failure to accede to Iraq's just requests creates a situation wherein a claimant who has been awarded compensation by the Commission could file suit in Iraqi and international courts in

order to obtain compensation again for the same damages. In such cases, Iraq would not have the legal proof it needs to protect its rights, because it has not been able to review the claim documents and has no information about the decisions made on the claims. This situation is patently unjust and without precedent.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq draws your attention to these legal facts and the unjust scenario wherein Iraq could potentially pay compensation multiple times for claims submitted to more than one body (i.e., the Commission and the national courts). Iraq hopes that the Security Council will intercede with the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission and urge it to accede to the requests of Iraq, and to work constructively with Iraq and provide it with the full archive of individual, government and corporate claims.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim **Al-Jaafari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

United Nations A/71/1028–S/2017/722

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 18 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach hereto a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the so-called "visit" of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, to the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Vitrenko**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

17-14510 (E) 240817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 18 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on so-called "visit" of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin to the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine

On 18 August 2017 the Russian delegation headed by President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin began another "visit" to the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

Ukraine considers this and other similar so-called "trips" of the Russian officials to the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as flagrant violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, blatant and demonstrative neglect by the Russian side of universally recognized norms of the international law.

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are and remain an integral part of Ukraine in its internationally recognized borders. It is recognized by the whole civilized world that has already provided its proper assessment of internationally illegal actions of the Russian Federation including by imposing appropriate sanctions against this country.

United Nations S/2017/723

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2017

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of the United States of America on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 18 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations stating that Ms. Kelley A. Eckels-Currie has been appointed alternate representative of the United States on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

17-14421 (E) 220817

Please recycle

United Nations S/2017/724

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2017
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 21 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 17 to 21 August 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

17-14769 (E) 300817 300817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (17 August 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 13 incidents of gunfire in the following governorates: 8 in Aleppo, 3 in Ladhiqiyah, 1 in Damascus and 1 in Suwayda'.

The Turkish representative office has reported two violations in Damascus governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation. Approximately 30 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) were delivered to Damascus governorate for residents in the Eastern Ghuta district de-escalation area.

One United Nations humanitarian operation was carried out: the Russian airline Abakan Air parachuted a total of 21 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) near to the city of Dayr-al-Zawr.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, four ceasefire agreements have been signed with Tarfawi, Abu Mujahir, Raj al-Unayra and Marhamiyah in Idlib governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,188.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 228.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (18 August 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported one incident of gunfire in Hama governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported three violations: two in Damascus governorate and one in Hama governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out two humanitarian operations: the delivery of 1.9 tons of food parcels to the local population in Mahsanah, Aleppo governorate; and the delivery of 1.6 tons of food products to the local population in Masharfah, Homs governorate.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo was 3.5 tons.

Humanitarian aid was provided to 1,750 people.

In total, 1,585 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

During humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours, Russian field medics have provided medical assistance to 336 people.

Four United Nations humanitarian operation were carried out: the Russian airline Abakan Air parachuted a total of 21 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) near to the city of Dayr-al-Zawr; and the safe passage of three humanitarian convoys was ensured to Duma (Damascus governorate), Tayyibah (Dar'a governorate) and Tallbissah (Homs governorate).

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,188.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged -- it is still 228.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (19 August 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported four incidents of gunfire: three in Ladhiqiyah governorate and one in Aleppo governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported two violations in Damascus governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, 14 ceasefire agreements have been signed with Mazyukah, Ghaytal, Baydar, Haranj, Umm Ghubar, Is, Mayzaliyah, Ayshah, Hizayah, Akhu Hasan and Rasm Asur in Aleppo governorate; with Sadiyah and Makkabis in Hama governorate; and with Batrun in Idlib governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,202.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

In accordance with the Geneva agreement, the ceasefire agreement has been joined by the Rahman Corps in the Eastern Ghuta district de-escalation area.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire has increased to 229.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (20 August 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported six incidents of gunfire in the following governorates: four in Hama, one in Aleppo and one in Ladhiqiyah.

The Turkish representative office has reported four violations in Damascus governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations.

One United Nations convoy was conducted: the delivery of a total weight of 200 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) to Tall Amarah.

Russian field medics provided medical assistance to 53 people.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire agreements have been signed with populated areas.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 2,202.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 229.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (21 August 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire in the following governorates: three Ladhiqiyah, one in Aleppo and one in Damascus.

The Turkish representative office has reported two violations: one in Aleppo governorate and one in Homs governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusrah Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations.

One United Nations humanitarian operation was carried out: the Russian airline Abakan Air parachuted a total of 21 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) near to the city of Dayr-al-Zawr.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, five ceasefire agreements have been signed with Nasrani, Tasil Ubayd and Habl al-Tin in Homs governorate, and with Alamayn and Umm Harzah in Idlib governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,207.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 229.

United Nations A/71/1029–S/2017/725

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 68 (c)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 16 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine of 14 August 2017 on Russia's political repression of the citizens of Ukraine (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Vitrenko**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 16 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Russia's political repressions against the citizens of Ukraine

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its categorical protest and outrage over yet another wave of political repressions and human rights violations by the Kremlin regarding the citizens of Ukraine.

The Russian occupation authorities continue the discrimination on national and religious grounds in the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, persecuting ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars.

At least five politically motivated sentences of imprisonment were announced, seven people were arrested or fined in Crimea over the past month. Also, at least three searches in the houses of the Crimean Tatars were conducted over the past week.

The cynical mass searches, a time-tested NKVD practice, as well as a series of arrests of those supported the 76-year-old Server Karametov who was arrested for the picket, are evidence of the continuation of the Kremlin regime's bold attack against everyone who disagree with the occupation.

Despite numerous appeals by Ukraine and the international community demanding the immediate release of all illegally detained and sentenced Ukrainians, the Russian leadership continues a shameful practice of using Ukrainian citizens as the hostages of its aggressive policy against our state, making false accusations.

We express grave concern regarding the deteriorated health of the Ukrainian citizen Ruslan Zeitullayev, illegally sentenced on the territory of Russia, who on July 27, 2017, began another hunger strike to protest against Russian legal arbitrariness due to his unjustified sentencing to 15 years of deprivation of liberty. We demand that Russian side immediately allow Ruslan Zeitullayev to be examined by Ukrainian doctors.

Ukraine is demanding that the Russian Federation release all illegally detained citizens of Ukraine immediately and without any further preconditions, and cease the practice of political persecutions and repressions against our compatriots.

United Nations S/2017/726

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2017

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya

I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2323 (2016), covers political and security developments in Libya, provides an overview of the economic, human rights and humanitarian situation in the country and outlines the activities of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) since the issuance of my previous report on 4 April 2017 (S/2017/283).

II. Political and security-related developments

2. The reporting period was marked by numerous efforts by the United Nations and Member States to revitalize the political process against the backdrop of a highly volatile security environment. Clashes in Tripoli led to the eventual withdrawal of some hardline armed groups and improved security control in the capital by forces supportive of the Presidency Council. Escalating violence took place in Southern Libya, where forces of the two main armed actors, the Libyan National Army and the Misratan-affiliated Third Force clashed over control of strategic positions.

3. Libyan political and security actors continued to engage in dialogue to advance the political process. These activities took place amidst increasing popular debate over the nature and the end state of the transitional period and the possible holding of elections in 2018. Delegations representing the House of Representatives and High State Council were also selected in line with the Libyan Political Agreement to engage in dialogue on possible amendments to the Agreement. The Constitution Drafting Assembly finalized a draft constitution to ensure that a constitutional framework would be in place at the end of the transitional period. On 29 July 2017, the Assembly voted and approved the constitution, which is to be put to popular referendum for adoption.

4. During the reporting period, I appointed Ghassan Salamé (Lebanon) as my new Special Representative and Head of UNSMIL, effective 26 July 2017. He replaced Martin Kobler (Germany), who ended his tenure as my Special Representative and Head of UNSMIL on 30 June.

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Implementation of Libyan Political Agreement

5. UNMSIL continued to engage with Libyan stakeholders to facilitate an inclusive political process to address the contentious issues in the Libyan Political Agreement. On 24 April 2017, the House of Representatives announced the formation of a 24-member dialogue committee, including three women. On 9 May, the High State Council announced its own 13 member committee, including one woman. Although the two committees have not met together formally since their formation, several members of the two committees met for informal consultations in The Hague on 23 May and 7 July under the auspices of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. On 15 July, Prime Minister Faiez Serraj, in his personal capacity, proposed a transitional road map, incorporating, inter alia, a call for a ceasefire throughout Libya and the holding of parliamentary and presidential elections in March 2018.

Regional and international engagement

6. Concerned Member States, including Libya's neighbours, States members of the European Union and regional organizations, continued their efforts to advance the Libyan political process and bridge divides among key stakeholders. On 8 May 2017, my former Special Representative attended the eleventh meeting of the neighbouring States of Libya at the ministerial level, which was held in Algiers. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs affirmed the need to resolve the political crisis through inclusive dialogue and welcomed the recent meetings between the heads of Libyan national institutions.

7. On 23 May 2017, the European Union hosted the second meeting of the Quartet (African Union, European Union, League of Arab States and United Nations) in Brussels. UNSMIL also provided support for the visits of the High Representative of the African Union for Libya, former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete, and a ministerial delegation from the High-Level Committee of the African Union on Libya, during which they met with Libyan stakeholders with a view to moving the political process forward.

8. On 6 June 2017, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia met for the second time to discuss support for reconciliation efforts in Libya under the leadership of the United Nations. On 2 July, during the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, the High-level Committee of the African Union met for the third time to promote a common approach to a political solution to the crisis.

9. During the reporting period a number of initiatives were pursued by Member States in support of the political process. On 21 April 2017, Italy hosted the first meeting between the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Head of the High State Council. Building on previous efforts by Egypt, on 2 and 3 May, Prime Minister Serraj and General Khalifa Haftar met in Abu Dhabi. On 25 July, the President of France hosted a second bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Serraj and General Haftar, which resulted in the issuance of a declaration calling for a ceasefire, an inclusive political dialogue to enable the effective implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement and the holding of elections. On 20 and 31 July, Egypt convened meetings to facilitate dialogue between military delegations from Misrata and the Libyan National Army.

Situation in the western region

10. In Tripoli, forces affiliated with the defunct "Government of National Salvation" were ousted from the city following fighting with forces supportive of the Presidency Council. On 26 May 2017, pro-Presidency Council forces repelled an

attack by forces aligned with the Government of National Salvation, resulting in the death of at least 44 fighters and four civilians. Forces under the Presidency Council, including the Presidential Guard, took control of key positions in the city, including Tripoli International Airport. On 7 July, pro-Presidency Council forces repelled an attempt by groups supporting the Government of National Salvation to enter the city. The clash, which took place in Qarabulli, some 25 km east of the capital, resulted in four civilian deaths and further expansion of the area of control of pro-Presidency Council forces.

11. On 11 June 2017, the Abu Bakr al-Saddiq Battalion announced that it had released Saif al-Islam Qadhafi from Zintan, where he had been detained since 2011. The group, which is affiliated with the Libyan National Army, claimed that Qaddafi had been released consistent with the 2012 Amnesty Law. His release has not been independently verified.

Situation in the eastern region

12. In the east, fighting between the Libyan National Army and disparate armed groups continued in Benghazi and Derna. On 23 June 2017, the Libyan National Army took control of the Souk al-Hout district of Benghazi, expelling the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries from its last main stronghold. On 5 July, the Libyan National Army announced the liberation of Benghazi, despite ongoing fighting in some neighbourhoods still occupied by the Shura Council. The advance of the Libyan National Army came at a high cost, with the reported loss of 78 combatants in the first 20 days of July alone. The campaign to seize neighbourhoods from the armed groups took place in parallel with an escalation in the number of asymmetrical terrorist attacks. On 19 May, a tribal leader and three other persons were killed in an attack using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. On 10 June, another such device was used to target the Mayor of Benghazi, injuring five persons. Civilians returning to their homes in Benghazi continued to be the victims of mines, improvised explosive devices and other explosive remnants of war.

13. The situation in Darnah remains tense and access to the city remained highly restricted, which has resulted in the worsening of the humanitarian situation. The Libyan National Army continued to clash with elements of the Darnah Mujahidin Shura Council, bolstered by air support. On 15 July 2017, the commander of the Libyan National Army forces in charge of operations in Darnah announced ongoing discussions with local elders to negotiate an end to the fighting in the city.

Situation in the southern region

14. During the reporting period, the Libyan National Army significantly expanded its area of control in southern Libya. On 18 May 2017, following a series of clashes between forces aligned with the National Army and the Third Force affiliated with Misrata, elements of the Benghazi Defence Brigades, along with the Third Force, attacked the Buraq al-Shati airbase, controlled by the National Army, killing at least 89 military personnel and six civilians. The attack was widely condemned in Libya, including by the Presidency Council, and sparked angry reactions by local tribes. Despite seizing full control of the airbase, the Third Force was obliged to withdraw from key installations in the south that they had secured, including the Sharara oil fields. The Libyan National Army quickly moved in to take up those positions. On 24 May, the new military commander for the Sabha Military Zone appointed by the Libyan National Army command called for all military units in the south to join the National Army.

15. Politically, many actors in the south continue to profess their reluctance to be drawn into what they perceive as an east versus west conflict. Two groups were therefore formed to advocate for the interests of the south and ensure better coordinated action by southern actors. On 5 June 2017, a total of 15 members of the High State Council from the south announced the creation of the "Southern Bloc" and on 17 July, a group of influential southern activists representing the main tribal communities announced the formation of the "National Forces Assembly of Fezzan".

ISIL in Libya

16. Since the liberation of Sirte in December 2016, ISIL is no longer in control of territory in Libya although it continues to be active within the country. ISIL elements were active in the desert region south and south-west of Sirte, and sleeper cells are located in other parts of the country. During the reporting period, ISIL conducted at least six attacks, mostly against the pro-Presidency Council force Al-Bunyan al-Marsous, which controls security in Sirte. It included an attack on 14 May 2017, in which ISIL seized three fuel trucks on the road to Jufra. ISIL continued to suffer losses, however, including the killing of a commander on 23 April by the Libyan National Army.

Economic situation

17. Oil production levels reached over one million barrels of oil per day, as announced on 30 June 2017 by the Chair of the National Oil Corporation. This is the highest level of oil production since 2013. Oil production is expected to reach 1.25 million barrels per day by the end of 2017. Nonetheless, the value of the Libyan dinar continued to fall, reaching 8.4 dinars to the United States dollar as of 19 July, compared to 6.36 dinars to the dollar in March 2017.

18. Despite the increase in oil production, which is projected to account for over 80 per cent of Government revenues in 2017, the budget deficit is much higher than previously projected. On 13 July 2017, the Central Bank of Libya reported that the budget deficit for the first half of the year amounted to 6.7 billion dinars. While this is marginally lower than 2016, the Central Bank continues to cover the deficit with its quickly diminishing foreign currency reserves, which are projected to decrease to $44.6 billion by the end of 2017, down from $53.5 billion one year ago.

19. To assist in effective disbursement of the budget, the United States of America continued to hold economic dialogue meetings in Tunis attended by representatives of the Presidency Council, the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Libya and the State Audit Bureau. UNSMIL participated in the meetings in an observer capacity.

III. Constitution-making process

20. The constitution-making process advanced during the reporting period. Following the proposal of Prime Minister Serraj on 15 July 2017, the development of a constitutional framework to end the transition has taken on increased urgency. On 12 March, the Constitution Drafting Assembly formed a 12-member "consensus committee" to update the draft text of the constitution produced in April 2016. That committee subsequently developed a draft aimed at addressing concerns among members who had either rejected the April 2016 draft or had boycotted the proceedings. For the first time in over a year, a significant majority of members of the Constitution Drafting Assembly, including some of those who had previously boycotted the proceedings, met at their Bayda' headquarters. The meeting gave the

members an opportunity to propose alternative constitutional drafts to the April 2016 text.

21. On 29 July 2017, the consensus committee's revised text of the April 2016 draft was passed by a vote of 43 to 1. The next step in the process is the passing of a referendum law. The draft must then be put to a popular referendum before it is legally adopted.

22. In parallel with the efforts of the Assembly to finalize a text, Libyan and international partners continued to raise awareness about constitutional issues with a broad range of Libyan constituencies, including women's groups and organizations. Particular effort has gone into engaging Libya's minorities to ensure that their rights and aspirations are reflected in any draft text put to a referendum.

IV. Other activities of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya

A. Electoral support

23. UNSMIL continued to provide advisory and technical support to the High National Elections Commission. On 7 May 2017, the Commission requested the resumption of an integrated United Nations electoral assistance framework, including development of a new United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) electoral assistance project. As a result, the United Nations will conduct a technical assessment to determine the needs of the Commission, as well as of institutional capacity and operational readiness to carry out election-related activities and events. Of particular importance will be an assessment of steps required to update the voter list ahead of a possible referendum on a draft constitution and related electoral events, as well as the impact of the security environment on the processes.

B. Human rights, transitional justice and the rule of law

24. During the period under review, all parties to the conflict committed violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Victims had little avenue for redress due to a general state of lawlessness and the weakness of judicial institutions.

25. Ongoing violence also continued to cause civilian casualties. From 4 April to 21 July 2017, UNSMIL documented a total of 144 civilian casualties, 66 deaths and 78 injuries. Leading causes of death included gunfire, airstrikes, shelling and the use of explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices.

26. Attacks on health-care facilities and medical personnel continued across the country, including in Zawiyah, Benghazi, Tripoli and Sabha. During the reporting period, the main hospital in Zawiyah was closed three times because of armed clashes in its vicinity. The attacks on health-care facilities have a strong impact on women, who constitute 56 per cent of employees at hospitals across the three Libyan regions.

Abductions and killings

27. Armed groups on all sides continued to take hostages, to carry out unlawful killings and to use torture and forced disappearances, including of civilians, in particular women and other persons not involved in the fighting. Individuals were

targeted on the basis of family or tribal identity, affiliations and political opinions, as well as for ransom or prisoner exchange.

28. On 18 May 2017, dozens of captured fighters and civilians were summarily executed or otherwise unlawfully killed during a coordinated attack against the Libyan National Army-controlled Birak al-Shati' airbase. Some bodies were reportedly found with bound hands and single gunshots to the head. The Presidency Council has opened an investigation into the incident.

29. During the clashes in Tripoli on 26 May 2017, the bodies of five guards at the Hadba prison were brought to a Tripoli morgue with gunshot wounds to the back of the head, raising concerns about possible summary executions. Some hours earlier, the Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade had gained control of the facility.

30. During the reporting period, five videos emerged on social media depicting Libyan National Army forces carrying out apparent summary executions of suspected fighters of the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries. Soon afterwards, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) requested the suspension from service of persons allegedly involved in the incidents.

Detention torture and death in custody

31. Across the country, arbitrary detention remained widespread in both official prisons and detention facilities controlled by armed groups. Little progress was made in screening individual cases to ensure that those held were either referred for trial or released, in accordance with Libyan law.

32. Although UNSMIL visited several facilities, including the Hadba prison and the Abu Salim Security Directorate, it was not able to conduct private interviews with detainees. Despite its repeated requests, UNSMIL was unable to visit the Mitiga detention facility in Tripoli, one of the largest detention facilities in the city, which is controlled by the Special Deterrence Force under the aegis of the Ministry of Interior. UNSMIL continued to receive credible reports of torture, sexual and gender-based violence, poor prison conditions, medical neglect and denial of family visits for detainees.

33. Following the takeover of the Hadba prison by pro-Presidency Council armed groups on 26 May 2017, the conditions and whereabouts of the prisoners, including senior officials of the ousted Qadhafi regime, remained unclear.

Groups in vulnerable situations

Migrants

34. Migrants continued to be subjected by smugglers, traffickers, members of armed groups and security forces to extreme violence; torture and other ill-treatment; forced labour; arbitrary deprivation of liberty; rape; and other sexual violence and exploitation. On 11 April 2017, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) denounced the presence of slave markets in Libya, where sub-Saharan migrants were bought and sold and women were traded as sex slaves. On 8 May, the International Criminal Court informed the Security Council that it was carefully examining the feasibility of opening an investigation into migrant-related crimes in Libya, should the jurisdictional requirements of the Court allow it.

35. UNSMIL visited detention centres under the control of the Department for Combatting Illegal Migration in Gharyan, Tripoli, Misrata and Surman, where thousands of migrants have been held arbitrarily for prolonged periods of time with no possibility to challenge the legality of their detention. UNSMIL had documented

cases of torture, ill-treatment, rape and other forms of sexual violence. Detention centres remained overcrowded, and detainees were often malnourished, living in poor hygienic conditions and with limited or no access to medical care.

36. Migrants rescued or intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard were disembarked at 10 designated points between Ras Ajdir and Misrata, and then transported to detention centres controlled by the Department for Combatting Illegal Migration. UNSMIL received numerous reports of dangerous, life-threatening interceptions by armed men believed to be from the Libyan Coast Guard. UNSMIL has been reviewing its support to the Libyan Coast Guard in line with the United Nations human rights due diligence policy.

Women

37. During the reporting period, women were arbitrarily deprived of their liberty, often because of family affiliations or for prisoner exchanges, and were held in facilities without female guards, exposing them to the risk of sexual abuse. Migrant women and girls were particularly vulnerable to gang rape and other sexual violence and exploitation at the hands of officials, including from staff of the Department for Combating Illegal Migration, members of armed groups, smugglers and traffickers.

Children

38. Children continued to be victims of abductions, arbitrary detention and ill-treatment; and they were often held in detention facilities with adults. They were also caught in indiscriminate attacks or crossfire, with at least 12 killed and 11 injured in hostilities during the reporting period. Lack of access for the monitoring and verification of grave violations against children remains a main concern, resulting in the collection of limited data reflecting the situation on the ground.

Internally displaced persons

39. Many internally displaced persons were subjected to threats, intimidation and targeted attacks. On 31 May 2017, members of the Sbortowat armed group from the Warshafanah region reportedly held and maltreated internally displaced persons of the Tawerghan community at the Janzour Naval Academy camp, impeded their freedom of movement and disrupted the electricity supply to the camp. On 6 June, an internally displaced person from Benghazi was stabbed when an armed group attacked a settlement of internally displaced persons in Misrata. On the same day, a car carrying a family of internally displaced persons from Benghazi came under fire in Misrata by a man allegedly affiliated to a local armed group, resulting in the death of a woman and injury to her two sons.

Activists and media workers

40. During the reporting period, human rights defenders, activists, journalists and other media professionals were victims of targeted attacks and intimidation. The whereabouts of Jabir Zain, a Tripoli-based activist, remained unknown after his abduction on 26 September 2016, ahead of his participation in a seminar on women's rights. UNSMIL received reports that members of the Second Support Brigade, nominally under the Ministry of Interior, carried out the abduction, although the group denies holding him.

Transitional justice and national reconciliation

41. On 14 May 2017, the Presidency Council issued a decree establishing a preparatory committee for national reconciliation tasked with organizing a dialogue process to develop a mandate for a future national reconciliation commission. With

assistance provided by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and UNDP, UNSMIL continues to support the national reconciliation process through a comprehensive and inclusive programme.

42. Two agreements were signed to facilitate the return of internally displaced persons to their communities of origin. On 18 May 2017, an agreement was reached between the Mashashiya and Zintani communities on the return of persons displaced in the region since 2011 and on the establishment of independent mechanisms to address the issues of reparation, compensation and missing persons. Both sides requested the assistance of UNSMIL in the facilitation of the dialogue and implementation of the agreement. On 20 June, the Presidency Council ratified an agreement on the return of Tawerghan internally displaced persons and the provision of reparations. UNSMIL and UNDP urged the preparatory committee and the Presidency Council to implement the agreement in full compliance with international standards, including respect for the principle of no conditionality on the return of internally displaced persons, full transparency and oversight for reparation and other payments, as well as the need to address truth and accountability issues through a national programme.

43. In an effort to address local conflicts and create the conditions for a national reconciliation process, from 24 to 26 May 2017 UNSMIL facilitated, in Malta, a dialogue between the Awlad Sulayman and Qadhadhfa tribes. UNSMIL continued to engage both parties to make progress towards an effective negotiation process. UNSMIL also convened a meeting between notables and tribal representatives from Misrata and from the eastern region of Libya as a first step towards an actual reconciliation process. To promote cooperation and synergy among various mediation initiatives, UNSMIL organized, on 15 June, a meeting of international mediators working on the situation in southern Libya.

Judicial and penal system

44. While prosecutors, judges and other judicial staff continued to work in a difficult security and operational environment during the reporting period, there was a partial reactivation of prosecution and court offices in central and eastern Libya. The Minister of Justice of the Government of National Accord confirmed his commitment to addressing the situation of those held unlawfully and to ensuring the humane treatment of detainees.

45. In April and May 2017, UNSMIL facilitated a series of workshops on prison reform and international standards on the treatment of prisoners in Tripoli and Tunis for judicial police officers, members of the judiciary and civil society actors.

46. In May 2017, as part of the criminal justice reform initiative in Libya, the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime facilitated an agreement between the Ministries of Justice of Libya and Algeria. The agreement will allow experts from the Algerian National School for Prison Management and experts in prison management from the Office for Drugs and Crime to deliver a comprehensive training package, including training for trainers, to Libyan judicial police officers. Once completed, graduates are expected to join the judicial police training institutes in Libya.

Human rights due diligence policy

47. On 7 April 2017, UNSMIL senior management and heads of agencies of the United Nations country team in Libya agreed on a general and preliminary risk assessment and a standing operating procedure for implementation of the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces in Libya (see A/67/775-S/2013/110). The United Nations system in

Libya is currently reviewing its support to Libyan security forces and is considering mitigating measures that may reduce the risk of the commission of violations of international humanitarian, human rights and refugee laws.

C. Security sector

Support for Libyan planning for interim security arrangements

48. In Tripoli, UNSMIL, supported by the European Union Liaison and Planning Cell, continued to engage with local authorities to establish a security structure for the capital. The ceasefire of 15 March 2017 and the subsequent departure from the capital of forces supporting the Government of National Salvation in May provided an opening for the Presidency Council and affiliated forces to consolidate their control of the city. On 20 April, Prime Minister Serraj signed the Tripoli security plan, bringing together the Presidential Guard and security actors from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Interior, counter-terrorism forces and the Libyan navy and coastguard.

49. As at 30 June 2017, a total of 30 police stations were operational in Tripoli and plans were in place for an additional 30 police stations. In a related undertaking, UNSMIL and UNDP developed a joint programme to support police, justice and corrections within the global focal point arrangement.

Arms and ammunition management

50. In collaboration with the United Nations Mine Action Service, UNSMIL continued to assist Libyan authorities in their efforts to address the threat posed by the uncontrolled spread of arms and ammunition, as well as the residual risk of death and injury from explosive remnants of war and booby traps. The Mine Action Service supported the Libyan Mine Action Centre in the development of an arms and ammunition management framework to inform future Government measures to address stockpile control. UNSMIL and the Mine Action Service also scaled up efforts to coordinate the international response to the threat of explosive hazards in Sirte.

51. UNSMIL and the United Nations Mine Action Service also organized training sessions for national authorities in institutional and operational capacity-building, including quality assurance, explosive ordnance disposal, non-technical surveys, risk awareness and medical response. This was to improve their ability to respond to the current humanitarian situation and enable safe access, particularly for internally displaced persons and returnees.

52. The United Nations Mine Action Service provided medical first responder training courses for 48 Benghazi operators dealing with explosive hazards. To raise awareness about the needs of victims of explosive incidents, the Mine Action Service, in coordination with an international non-governmental organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), held the first workshop on victim assistance for Libya, in Tunis on 27 and 28 July 2017. The Mine Action Service continued to coordinate with risk education partners in support of raising awareness about the dangers posed by explosive hazards and to increase the safety of the population. From January to June, over 21,000 people participated in such programmes across Libya.

D. Women's empowerment

53. In May, UNSMIL, supported by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), finalized the 2017-2018 national strategy on women and peace and security to promote women's political participation, including through capacity-building and technical assistance.

54. UNSMIL continued to train women members of the House of Representatives and provided technical assistance in support of the women's caucus in Parliament. From 4 to 7 May 2017, UNSMIL also engaged with the Deputy Minister of Interior in order to identify training opportunities for women police officers. Members of the High National Electoral Commission joined a training session on gender-based budgeting, held from 4 to 6 August. On 8 May, UNSMIL, in coordination with the State Minister of Women's Affairs and Community Development, launched a study on Libyan women's leadership, highlighting the low percentage of women in decision-making positions and providing recommendations to enhance female leadership.

55. On 19 and 20 May 2017, UNSMIL, with UN-Women and UNDP, organized a lessons-learned discussion on the participation of Libyan women in the political dialogue process. As an outcome of the discussion, participants agreed on principles and methods of engagement for future dialogue and negotiation processes.

E. Young people, peace and security

56. During the period under review, UNSMIL broadened its engagement with young women and men, including by promoting their activities on its social media accounts. On 6 April, 14 and 23 May 2017, my former Special Representative held meetings with male and female representatives from over 15 youth organizations in Tripoli. From 16 to 18 May, with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, UNSMIL gathered 30 youth activists engaged in promoting reconciliation in their communities to ensure the integration of their voices and concerns within the national reconciliation process. UNSMIL is also facilitating the creation of a national network of youth for reconciliation.

57. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other partners, supported the Government in developing the "Youth policy paper for a national youth strategy", presenting an in-depth analysis of the current situation to inform the development of a youth strategy for Libya.

58. A perception survey conducted by UNSMIL in April 2017 found that Libyan youth emerged as the group most supportive of the Libyan Political Agreement. The survey showed that more than 75 per cent of young Libyan women and men support the implementation of the Agreement and uniting the country under a civilian-led government of national unity.

F. Coordination and international assistance

59. On 18 July 2017, in Tripoli, the Government of National Accord hosted the first meeting of the Senior Policy Committee, the overarching structure of the coordination framework for international technical cooperation with the Government of Libya, bringing together the Libyan Prime Minister, senior representatives of the Government of National Accord and representatives of donor countries and of entities of the United Nations system in Libya. Participants

identified concrete ways to strengthen international partnerships to improve the living conditions of people in need, based on the needs and priorities presented by the Government of National Accord.

60. On 30 and 31 March 2017, the fifth meeting of the Libya Experts Development Cooperation Forum was convened in Tunis to discuss policy options for a national framework for social protection and the provision of immediate support to the poor and vulnerable. The event was aimed at reducing vulnerability in the country.

G. Humanitarian, stabilization and development assistance

61. Overall, the humanitarian situation remained unchanged during the reporting period. Sporadic escalations of violence in southern Libya resulted in small-scale displacements and further hampered access to basic commodities and emergency humanitarian assistance, especially medical support. Living standards and the provision of basic services continued to deteriorate amidst continual shortages of electricity, especially in the south.

62. Insufficient funding is hampering efforts to respond to humanitarian needs in a sustained and comprehensive manner. While the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017 targets 941,000 people in need and requests $151 million in donations, so far only $42.9 million (28 per cent) of the funding requirement has been provided.

63. Despite challenges and shortfalls, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes continued to provide urgent humanitarian relief and assistance, mainly through national counterparts. IOM noted a decrease in the number of internally displaced persons in the country, with over 240,000 displaced persons identified at the end of the reporting period compared to 303,000 in February 2017. Returns to communities of origin increased considerably during the period, with about 250,000 returnees identified as of May, especially to Benghazi, Sirte and Ubari. From April to July, UNHCR supported approximately 8,000 Libyan internally displaced persons and returnees with core relief items, shelter kits and cash-based interventions in the Nafusa Mountains and in the Benghazi area.

64. The World Health Organization (WHO) supported the Ministry of Health in enhancing the latter's health system capacities, including through the creation of an Emergency Management Department and an Emergency Operations Centre. An assessment of service availability and readiness was completed, which provided the humanitarian community and development actors with valuable data. WHO also provided technical assistance to Libyan authorities to enhance operational capabilities to deliver humanitarian assistance. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) procured and delivered 550 refrigerators and 550 voltage regulators for installation in health facilities across Libya. Since April 2017, UNFPA has distributed emergency reproductive health kits to 21 health facilities in several governorates, reaching 44,000 vulnerable pregnant women. In addition, UNFPA, in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF, initiated the development of a five-year reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health strategy with the Libyan Ministry of Health.

65. Almost 3,500 refugees and asylum seekers have been registered since the beginning of 2017, and the population of refugees now totals over 42,000. UNHCR and partners assisted almost 6,000 individuals with primary health care in detention centres and provided weekly medical consultations, hygiene kits and cash-based interventions to about 650 refugees and asylum seekers in two Tripoli community development centres. UNHCR resettled a group of refugee women previously held

in captivity by armed groups and transferred another group to a new location so that it could provide them with adequate medical assistance and protection.

66. Amidst worsening food insecurity of internally displaced persons, returnees and refugees, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided assistance through on-site food distribution to almost 78,000 people throughout Libya. Together with the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), UNHCR and UNFPA, WFP expanded its household multisectoral needs assessment to include nine additional municipalities (Jufrah, Benghazi, Sirte, Ajdabiya, Zawiyah, Bayda', Sabha, Ubari and Kufrah) and enhanced its information base through a Joint Market Initiative.

67. UNICEF and WHO conducted more than 86,000 sub-national immunization days in eight districts in the south of Libya, targeting 103,374 children. With the influx of migrants to the south, sub-national immunization days constituted one of the mitigation measures to prevent the importation of the polio virus to the country.

68. During the first six months of 2017, UNICEF and its partners provided over 20,000 children with access to psychosocial support services in both community and school-based child-friendly spaces. Over 3,200 children, including children with disabilities and children on the move, continue to benefit from catch-up classes, remedial education and recreational activities.

69. From 2 April to 24 July 2017, IOM recorded over 68,800 migrants who had reached Italy by way of the central Mediterranean route. The Libyan coastguard and other entities rescued more than 7,700 migrants between 1 April and 24 July, while more than 1,600 deaths were recorded. IOM identified over 390,000 migrants present in Libya, but estimates that between 700,000 and 1 million refugees and migrants are present in the country.

70. During the reporting period, IOM rehabilitated two detention centres in Tripoli, initiated work on two additional centres and helped 3,700 stranded migrants to return home through its voluntary humanitarian return and reintegration programme. This brought the total number of people assisted under the programme, as of 24 July 2017, to more than 5,500. In addition, IOM and UNHCR also supported the upgrade of disembarkation points in western Libya to provide better reception conditions for refugees and migrants.

71. The Stabilization Facility for Libya, launched in April 2016 and funded by 13 donors at a total cost of $36.7 million, rehabilitated and re-equipped facilities in Benghazi, Kiklah, Awbari, Sabha and Sirte. The programme is now expanding to Tripoli, Bani Walid, Kufrah and Derna, as security and financial resources permit.

72. As part of this joint engagement on strengthening the institutional resilience of core governance institutions in Libya, the Government of National Accord requested additional support from UNDP to address issues related to the technical functioning of the executive office at the centre-of-government. UNDP concluded the core government function assessment, including areas of Government employment and public administration, the security sector, the rule of law and local governance. In May 2017, upon invitation by the Presidency Council, UNDP undertook a joint mission with UNSMIL to Tripoli to assess critical emerging priorities in the executive office at the capital. UNDP is initiating a targeted transitional intervention, jointly with UNSMIL.

73. To assess the recovery needs of Libya, the entities of the United Nations system in the country, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the European Union jointly established a task force to review the quality of existing needs assessments and to inform policy formulation of Libya's mid-term sectoral strategy, with a focus on institutional and capacity issues. UNFPA also set up a

national strategy for the development of statistics in Libya, including support in monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the African Development Bank.

74. UNESCO continued to lead emergency interventions to protect museums and monuments in Libya, in close collaboration with the Department of Antiquities. The implementation of emergency protection measures is under way to protect key heritage sites and museums. Activities continue to be organized to build the capacities of Libyan conservators and Libyan customs, police officials and heritage personnel to fight the illicit trafficking of cultural property.

V. Deployment of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and security arrangements

75. As set out in Security Council resolutions 2238 (2015), 2273 (2016), 2291 (2016) and 2323 (2016), UNSMIL continued to work towards the phased re-establishment of a permanent presence in Libya, as security and political conditions allow. To that end, UNSMIL and the staff of the United Nations country team continued with the temporary rotational presence of international staff in Tripoli and with daily missions to other parts of the country, including Tobruk, and more recently, Benghazi, which enabled access to key partners across the country. Such a presence also allowed for visits to critical sites, such as migrant detention centres, meetings with political actors, security actors and judicial authorities, and engagement and interventions linked to the provision of humanitarian, stabilization and development assistance. In view of the security conditions in Libya, as of 30 June 2017, 156 UNSMIL international staff remained deployed in Tunis, with 37 national staff in Libya.

76. The deployment of a United Nations guard unit to the compound in Tripoli identified to serve as UNSMIL premises is anticipated in September.

Security and safety of staff members and operations

77. During the period under review, United Nations personnel in Libya continued to work in a high-risk security environment to implement programmes and activities and to implement the UNSMIL mandate. In Tripoli, the security situation remained precarious and a resumption of armed conflict in the capital could potentially affect both United Nations personnel and operations. The United Nations is still exposed to a wide range of threats, necessitating a continued requirement for additional security resources for its programmes.

78. UNSMIL endeavoured to increase its operations inside Libya and to maintain a permanent presence of security, support and substantive personnel in Tripoli on a rotational basis. As a result of the security situation, restrictions continued to be imposed on the movement of personnel in Tripoli and on international staff taking flights to Tripoli and other Libyan destinations.

79. On 28 June 2017, an UNSMIL convoy was attacked by an armed group on the Sahili (coastal) Road in western Zawiyah, 70 km west of Tripoli, as it was returning from a mission to the female detention facility operated by the Directorate for Countering Illegal Migration in Surman. The attack involved the brief detention of four staff members, one of whom had been injured during the incident, and the loss and damage to United Nations assets. UNSMIL is conducting an investigation into the circumstances.

80. The threat of terrorist attacks against the international community remained, and while ISIL no longer controls territory in Libya, at least six attacks during the reporting period, mostly in the vicinity of Sirte, were attributed to the group.

VI. Strategic assessment review

81. In response to Security Council resolution 2323 (2016), in which the Council stated that looked forward to the outcome of the Secretary-General's strategic assessment mission, the Department of Political Affairs conducted such an assessment to review the role of the United Nations and set priorities for UNSMIL and the United Nations country team in Libya. The review was conducted from February to July 2017. The Department of Political Affairs engaged Jean-Marie Guehenno as lead facilitator for the strategic assessment process. Mr. Guehenno led an inter-agency strategic assessment mission to Tunisia and Libya from 21 to 26 May 2017. The mission comprised representatives of the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Field Support, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Safety and Security, UNDP (representing the United Nations Development Group), UNHCR (on behalf of humanitarian agencies) and OHCHR. Its main objectives were to: (a) review the political strategy for Libya; (b) assess how insecurity and instability in Libya, and the resulting humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences, impact on the UNSMIL mandate and the programmes of the United Nations country team; (c) review the United Nations structure on the ground, including issues related to integration between UNSMIL and the United Nations country team; and (d) contribute to the overall United Nations strategy and to the road map in support of the transition in Libya.

82. The strategic assessment included meetings with relevant United Nations interlocutors (UNSMIL and the United Nations country team), Libyan stakeholders, Member States and neighbouring and international partners, as well as regional organizations. The strategic assessment allowed for a review of the political, security, human rights, humanitarian and economic situations in Libya, including women's and youth issues. Further, it evaluated national capacities and proposed strategic options for the United Nations system in Libya, including priorities and structure, based upon existing capabilities.

83. The strategic assessment mission recommended that UNSMIL, as an integrated special political mission, continue to focus on good offices and mediation efforts to: (a) backstop the political transition in Libya by supporting key Libyan institutions; (b) support efforts to secure uncontrolled arms and counter their proliferation; (c) promote respect for and the protection of human rights and the rule of law; and (d) coordinate international engagement. The main recommendations of the assessment include a reiteration of the primacy of politics; building credibility with the Libyans as a priority, including by enhancing existing structures; focusing on security arrangements and the national security architecture; prioritizing the neighbouring countries of Libya in efforts to coordinate international initiatives; maintaining a principled position on the question of migration; and securing predictable support for humanitarian assistance. The review recommended that UNSMIL revisit its structure to increasing its capacity to support the political process and strengthen coordination among its substantive sections and the United Nations country team. This is to ensure coherent mandate delivery and the implementation of priority programming across Libya. While the review considered three reconfiguration options, the selected Mission structure comprises one Special Representative and two Deputy Special Representatives, one for political affairs and the other who would also serve as Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator. This option will best enable UNSMIL to implement a comprehensive

political strategy while also maximizing the comparative advantages of UNSMIL and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes by facilitating greater integration and strategic coordination.

VII. Observations and recommendations

84. The priority of my new Special Representative, Ghassan Salamé, will be to engage all Libyan stakeholders, with a view to reinvigorating an inclusive political process within the framework of the Libyan Political Agreement, and to support a legitimate Government capable of unifying the country and its national institutions. This objective must be reinforced by steps to improve the security situation and stabilize the economy. I have requested my Special Representative to develop a comprehensive strategy and an action plan for the engagement of the entities of the United Nations system in Libya, consistent with the recommendations of the strategic review. The strategy will be presented during a high-level event to be held on the margins of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. It is my hope that participants in the event will be represented at the highest level and that they will support the central role of the United Nations in facilitating a Libyan-led political dialogue to help Libyans build stability, security and national unity.

85. Recent initiatives by Member States to bring Libyan stakeholders together and to foster compromise and reconciliation are encouraging. I sense a growing determination among key Libyan actors to resolve the current crisis through a political solution. My Special Representative will strive to unify and consolidate the various initiatives under the leadership of the United Nations. I call on all Libyans and on regional and international actors to extend their full support and cooperation to my Special Representative to that end.

86. There is a window of opportunity to resolve the crisis in Libya and to support the resumption of the democratic transition. I encourage all Libyan stakeholders to put their country's interest first, to assume their responsibilities and to work with a spirit of compromise and resolve to find a political solution. There is no military solution to the political crisis. The Libyan Political Agreement remains a workable framework for overcoming Libya's political crisis. I call upon all Libyan actors to use the framework as a basis for charting a clear way forward to bring the transitional period to completion, including by adopting the required set of amendments to the agreement.

87. Only a broad political agreement among political factions, competing State institutions and security and societal actors can create the enabling environment for elections. The passing of the constitutional proposal and the increasing calls by Libyan stakeholders to hold elections in 2018 highlight the need to build the capacities of relevant Libyan institutions. The United Nations stands ready to support the holding of a referendum and an electoral process based on political consensus, as well as on an adequate legal framework and conducive operational and security conditions.

88. Managing and resolving conflict at the local level is critical to addressing the underlying grievances fuelling the current conflict in Libya, and to preventing further escalation. I encourage Libyan authorities to create an inclusive national reconciliation process and I welcome the decision of the Presidency Council to create a preparatory committee for reconciliation. My Special Representative and the United Nations system stand ready to continue to support ongoing efforts in this regard and I wish to commend local and international mediators for their tireless efforts and contributions towards resolving conflict at the local level.

89. I am concerned that the security situation remains highly volatile, with sporadic but significant clashes in different parts of the country costing the lives of many civilians, including those of children. I call on all parties to exercise restraint and to engage in dialogue to reach a political solution. I am grateful for the efforts of the Presidency Council, the Government of National Accord and members of the House of Representatives, among others, who assisted UNSMIL in facilitating the release of its staff members following the attack on an UNSMIL convoy on 28 June 2017. I encourage the Government of National Accord to swiftly carry out an investigation with a view to ensuring the perpetrators are brought to justice.

90. Threats to national security can only be addressed effectively through the creation of a unified Libyan armed and security forces, operating under civilian control. In this regard, I welcome the steps being taken by the Presidency Council to implement the Tripoli Security Plan as well as efforts by the Ministry of Interior to consolidate its control over local police directorates. I also welcome the commitment to call a ceasefire undertaken by Prime Minister Serraj and General Haftar following the Paris meeting, under the auspices of the French President. I call on them to engage constructively, with the facilitation of my Special Representative, to broaden consensus across the spectrum of political and security actors in Libya on unresolved military issues.

91. Libyan security forces have made important gains against terrorist groups across the country, including efforts by the Libyan National Army to secure Benghazi and the continued efforts by forces under the Government of National Accord to combat remaining pockets of ISIL. These gains are reversible if not underpinned by a political commitment and concrete actions to unify Libyan security forces, and sustained by efforts to rehabilitate conflict-affected areas.

92. I am concerned about the prevailing lawlessness in the country. Abduction and hostage-taking, including of children; torture and other ill-treatment; summary executions and unlawful killings; enforced disappearances; and arbitrary, incommunicado and prolonged detention should end. Criminal syndicates, including those involved in the smuggling of petrol to neighbouring countries, pose a direct threat to the rule of law and undermine efforts to restore stability.

93. Too many innocent children, women and men have lost their lives or have been subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment as they attempted to cross the Mediterranean. The fundamental rights of migrants must be upheld at all times. I call on the Libyan authorities to immediately release the most vulnerable, in particular women at risk, pregnant women, families with children, unaccompanied or separated children and persons with disabilities.

94. The widespread presence of explosive hazards across Libya, including improvised explosive devices, as well as vast amounts of ammunition stockpiles, continues to threaten civilians and humanitarian actors, and there is limited national capacity to address this situation. Support from Member States is urgently needed to continue funding activities in the most severely affected areas: to provide training and equipment to Libyan actors; and to enhance coordination between humanitarian workers and security actors carrying out clearance activities.

95. The provision of basic services has become an urgent priority across the country. It is imperative that the national budget be allocated and disbursed to allow service delivery and to improve the increasingly difficult economic situation. In this regard, I welcome the creation of the Senior Policy Committee and the adoption of the coordination framework for international technical cooperation with the State of Libya. Enhancing the capacities of local authorities will remain a priority for UNSMIL as it supports the efforts of the Government to improve the provision of services.

96. I commend Libyan women for actively engaging in the various peace, political and reconciliation processes. I encourage all Libyans to continue to strive for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. My Special Representative will engage with Libyan women and facilitate wider engagement and participation of women from across the spectrum of Libyan society in the political process and public institutions.

97. In line with the recommendation of the United Nations system-wide strategic assessment, I intend to increase the United Nations presence in Libya through a phased, ramped-up rotation of personnel into Tripoli first, and gradually thereafter to other parts of the country. The main UNSMIL office will temporarily continue to be based in Tunisia. I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of Tunisia for hosting the Mission.

98. Also in line with the strategic assessment, I intend to reconfigure the senior leadership structure of UNSMIL to include the appointment of a Deputy Special Representative for political affairs. This will increase the capacity of the Mission to support the political process and help strengthen coordination among its substantive sections in support of its political mandate. In this regard, I also recommend a one-year extension of the UNSMIL mandate.

99. I would like to express my appreciation to the African Union, the European Union and the League of Arab States for their strong support for the work of the United Nations in Libya. I am particularly encouraged by the commitment and support of neighbouring States, regional actors and organizations to the Libyan political process. A cohesive and united approach within the international community is critical to support a Libyan-owned and Libyan-led process, with the facilitation of the United Nations.

100. As I welcome my new Special Representative Ghassan Salamé, I wish to express my appreciation to former Special Representative Martin Kobler for his tireless efforts in implementing the Mission mandate. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the staff of UNSMIL and the United Nations system in the country for their dedication and hard work and for their efforts to support a peaceful and democratic transition in Libya.

United Nations A/71/1030–S/2017/727

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 21 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting for your attention the position paper of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic) on the policy of Azerbaijan aimed at the isolation of Artsakh (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-14623 (E) 280817

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Annex to the letter dated 21 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Position Paper of the Republic of Artsakh on the policy of Azerbaijan aimed at isolation of Artsakh

The allegations of Azerbaijan on the so called illegal nature of economic and other activities in the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh Republic) lack international legal basis and are aimed at justifying Azerbaijan's policy of isolation of Artsakh and collective punishment of its population.

It should be noted that international law does not recognize any limitation over human rights of individuals or groups based on the status of the country of their residence and contains no discriminatory provisions in relation to non-recognized states.

According to the international instruments, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the realization of individual and collective human rights and fundamental freedoms including economic and social rights must not be dependent on the status of the territory where peoples live.

Moreover, the UN Covenant on Political and Civil Rights and the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights empower people to pursue their economic, social and cultural development by the virtue of the right to self-determination. The UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by its Article 1.2 establishes that "All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence."

The lack of recognition by other states cannot affect the ability of a state to engage in international relations, including carrying out foreign economic activity.

The legitimacy of such engagements has been confirmed by international arbitration practice and recognized by international courts. In particular, when considering the case on Namibia, the UN International Court of Justice has made a conclusion that the legal acts and judicial actions of de facto existing unrecognized states should not be rejected.[1] A similar approach has been applied by the courts of different states, inter alia, by the New York Court on the "*Salimoff & Co. v. Standard Oil of N.Y.*" case of 1933 and the British Court on the "*Carl Zeiss Stiftung v. Rayner & Keeler Ltd.*" (№ 2) case of 1966. These court decisions set up important precedents and were invoked in other similar proceedings.

We have repeatedly pointed out to the destructive and provocative nature of the attempts by the Azerbaijani authorities to involve the international community in the implementation of a policy of isolation of Artsakh that has been officially declared as a priority by the President of Azerbaijan.

The aggression unleashed against Artsakh by Azerbaijan in April 2016 demonstrated that this policy has been an integral part of the overall strategy of Azerbaijan aimed at expelling the indigenous population of Artsakh from its

[1] Advisory Opinion on "Legal Consequences for States of the Continued Presence of South Africa in Namibia (South-West Africa) notwithstanding Security Council Resolution 276 (1970)", which states that "non-recognition should not result in depriving the people of Namibia of any advantages derived from international co-operation".

ancestral homeland. Trying to isolate the Republic of Artsakh in political, economic, cultural and information spheres and prevent people to people contacts, Azerbaijan seeks to create favourable conditions for resumption of hostilities. This is confirmed by the fact that Baku consistently rejects any proposals to reduce tensions and enhance stability and predictability on the Line of Contact, including the agreements reached at the summits in Vienna and St. Petersburg on 16 May and 20 June 2016, respectively.

The logic of confrontation, aggressively imposed by Azerbaijan, is not only a direct threat to peace and security in the South Caucasus, but also undermines the very purposes and principles of the United Nations, including the goal "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character".

On numerous occasions the authorities of Artsakh expressed their readiness to interact with Azerbaijan in the framework of confidence building measures particularly in areas of economic and environmental cooperation. However, Azerbaijan has always refused all confidence building measures even those that were designed in a status neutral manner.

The actions of Azerbaijan, which refuses to engage in dialogue and promotes isolation, are not aimed at resolving the existing problems in the region, but at their escalation. We firmly believe that dividing lines can be overcome only through the promotion and development of international co-operation based on the principle of inclusion, rather than exclusion.

The idea of the interrelationship between economic prosperity and peaceful and friendly relations among nations permeates international legal instruments on economic, social and cultural rights. As pointed out in Article 55 of the UN Charter "With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the United Nations shall promote: a. [...] conditions of economic and social progress and development; b. solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems". Moreover, according to Article 9 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States "All States have the responsibility to co-operate in the economic, social, cultural, scientific and technological fields for the promotion of economic and social progress throughout the world ..."

The policy of Azerbaijan aimed at isolation of Artsakh is a blatant violation of the right to development, which is rooted in the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the two International Human Rights Covenants. The Declaration on the Right to Development defines such right as "an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized" (Article 1).

The right to development can be invoked both by individuals and peoples and includes: full sovereignty over natural resources; self-determination; popular participation in development; equality of opportunity; the creation of favourable conditions for the enjoyment of other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

That very right imposes obligations on States to co-operate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development (Article 3, The Declaration on the Right to Development). Moreover, UN GA resolution 48/141 which established the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights includes the

mandate "to promote and protect the realization of the right to development and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the UN system for this purpose".

The elected authorities of the Republic of Artsakh are ready for such co-operation with UN member states and are taking consistent steps to ensure a stable and transparent framework for economic activity in the Republic. In order to attract foreign investments, policies have been pursued to create a favourable investment climate. Certain tax benefits and guarantees have been established by law. Ongoing reforms did produce positive results: the volume of investments into the economy has increased (there are more than 160 companies in the Republic with foreign participation), annual economic growth has averaged 10 per cent over the past few years, and all planned social programmes are being implemented.

We strongly believe that the people of Artsakh should not remain hostage to Azerbaijan's aggressive policy, which is the main obstacle to the settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict. The unresolved conflict cannot serve as an excuse for the infringement of political, economic and social rights of the population of Artsakh. The authorities of the Republic of Artsakh, for their part, are making every effort to ensure that everyone living in the Republic can equally enjoy all rights and freedoms, enshrined in fundamental international documents, to freely explore and realize his/her potential. By that the authorities of Artsakh contribute to the consolidation of a peaceful, stable and prosperous region of the South Caucasus.

United Nations S/2017/728

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 22 August 2017 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Committee dated 18 August 2017, submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2371 (2017) (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Sebastiano **Cardi**
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)

17-14612 (E) 240817

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) prepared in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 2371 (2017)

On 5 August 2017, the Security Council, by its resolution 2371 (2017), decided to adjust the measures imposed by paragraph 8 of resolution 1718 (2006) and resolution 2371 (2017) through the designation of additional goods, and directed the Committee to undertake its tasks to that effect and to report to the Council within 15 days of the adoption of resolution 2371 (2017).

In order to fulfil those tasks, the Committee considered a list of weapons of mass destruction-related items, materials, equipment, goods and technology to be identified and designated as sensitive goods.

On 18 August 2017, the Committee acted in line with the Security Council's directive and approved the following:

Items, materials, equipment, goods and technology

Nuclear- and/or missile-usable items

1. Explosive bolts, nuts and shackles, flexible linear-shaped charges, ball locks, compression springs, circular cutting devices and acceleration rockets usable for staging mechanisms

2. All environmental test chambers capable of simulating flight conditions (temperature, pressure, shock and vibration) except those used for civilian aircraft safety purposes

3. Rapid prototyping, including additive manufacturing equipment

4. Polyacrylonitrile (PAN) fibre usable as a precursor for carbon fibre production and its associated production equipment

5. For point 12 of the list in the report of the Committee prepared in accordance with paragraph 25 of resolution 2270 (2016) (S/2016/308, annex) read "Metal hydrides, such as zirconium hydride, beryllium hydride, aluminium hydride, lithium aluminium hydride and titanium hydride"

6. Plasticizers usable in composite propellants, such as dioctyl adipate (DOA), dioctyl sebacate (DOS) and dioctyl azelate (DOZ)

7. Maraging steel capable of an ultimate tensile strength of 1,950 MPa or more at 293 K (20°C) and in any of the following forms:

(a) Sheet, plate or tubing with a wall or plate thickness equal to or less than 5.0 mm;

(b) Tubular forms with a wall thickness of 50 mm or less and having an inner diameter of 270 mm or more

8. Filament winding machines and related equipment: filament winding machines or fibre/tow-placement machines, of which the motions for positioning, wrapping and winding fibres can be coordinated and programmed in two or more axes and which are designed to fabricate composite structures or laminates from fibrous or filamentary materials, coordinating and programming controls and precision mandrels for such equipment

Chemical/biological weapons-usable items

1. Full face-mask air-purifying and air-supplying respirators except those used in breathing apparatus for firefighters

2. Additional chemicals suitable for decontamination of chemical warfare agents:

   • Diethylenetriamine (111-40-0)

3. Nerve agent chemoprophylaxis:

   • Butyrylcholinesterase (BCHE)

   • Pyridostigmine bromide (101-26-8)

   • Obidoxime chloride (114-90-9)

United Nations S/2017/729

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2017

Original: English

Identical letters dated 15 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a copy of the resolution entitled "Response to Israeli attacks and violations at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif" adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States during its extraordinary session held at the ministerial level in Cairo on 27 July 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council, in connection with the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East".

(*Signed*) Sabri **Boukadoum**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Algeria
Chair of the ministerial meeting of the
Council of the League of Arab States

17-14804 (E) 300817 300817

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Annex to the identical letters dated 15 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Outcomes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level

Response to Israeli attacks and violations at the Aqsa Mosque/ Haram al-Sharif

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level held an extraordinary session on 27 July 2017 at the request of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The session was chaired by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and attended by ministers for foreign affairs, heads of delegations of member States and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

The Council reiterates the centrality of the question of Palestine to the Arab nation. It also emphasizes that East Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine and rejects and condemns all measures taken by the occupying authorities to derogate from the Palestinian right to sovereignty over the city.

The Council condemns, in the strongest possible terms, Israeli plans and policies aimed at Judaizing the occupied city of Jerusalem, distorting its Arab and Islamic nature, changing its demographic composition, imposing Israeli sovereignty on it, closing down Palestinian institutions located in the city and isolating it from its Palestinian surrounding. The Council warns against the unprecedented inflammatory actions that Israel has taken in the occupied city of Jerusalem and at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif, the creation by the occupying authorities of new facts on the ground aimed at altering the historical and legal status quo of the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and the repeated raids of the Aqsa Mosque that have been carried out by extremist Israeli officials and settlers with the support and protection of Israeli police. Israel has also impeded the work of the Islamic Waqf Administration of Jerusalem and obstructed Jordanian reconstruction projects at the Aqsa Mosque. The above could have serious repercussions for the prospects for peace in the region, threaten international peace and security, and ignite a religious conflict in the region, for which Israel, the occupying Power, would bear full responsibility.

The Council, having heard the briefing of Ayman Safadi, Minister for Foreign and Expatriate Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the outcomes of the consultations and discussions that Jordan held in relation to the serious inflammatory actions taken by Israel in Jerusalem and at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif, and having heard the presentation of Mr. Riad Al-Maliki, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, on recent political and developments on the ground and the measures that the Palestinian leadership intends to take;

Having heard the speeches and statements of the heads of delegations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States;

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the occupied city of Jerusalem, the most recent being resolution 675 (28th ordinary session), which was adopted at the Amman summit on 29 March 2017,

Decides

1. To condemn strongly the serious inflammatory actions taken by Israel in the occupied city of Jerusalem and at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif, and categorically reject the creation by Israel of new facts on the ground, a move that is aimed at altering the historical and legal status quo in clear violation of the legal and international responsibilities of Israel as the occupying Power. The Council calls on Israel not to repeat the closure of the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif and to halt all forms of escalation, including any action aimed at altering the historical and legal status quo or creating new facts on the ground.

2. To reaffirm that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that aim to alter the historical and legal status quo in the city of Jerusalem and at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif are void and must be rescinded, in accordance with relevant international resolutions and instruments.

3. To call on the Security Council to carry out its responsibility to maintain international peace and security and to implement its resolutions on East Jerusalem, including Security Council resolutions 476 (1980), 478 (1980) and 2334 (2016), and to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to end its ongoing policies with respect to and acts of aggression against East Jerusalem and the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif, as they constitute grave violations of international law and resolutions.

4. To demand that all States implement the resolutions on the question of Palestine adopted by the United Nations and the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, including the latter's World Heritage Committee. Those resolutions have affirmed that the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif is an Islamic place of worship and an integral part of the fabric of global cultural heritage, and have condemned the illegal acts of aggression committed and the measures taken by Israel in Jerusalem and at the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif.

5. To commend the consultations carried out by and the efforts of His Majesty Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and custodian of the Islamic and Christian sites in Jerusalem, to end the serious inflammatory actions taken by Israel that are aimed at altering the historical and legal status of the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif.

6. To commend the efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, to protect the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif.

7. To support the steps and measures taken by the Palestinian leadership, under His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, to protect the blessed Aqsa Mosque and respond to the illegal measures taken by the occupying authorities in occupied Jerusalem.

8. To support fully the resilience of the Palestinian people, its institutions in occupied Jerusalem and its efforts to defend the city and its Islamic and Christian holy sites, especially the blessed Aqsa Mosque, against Israeli violations and attacks, and to respond to Israeli attempts to alter the city's historical and legal status quo.

9. To commend the efforts of His Majesty Mohammed VI, the King of Morocco and Chair of the Quds Committee, to that end.

10. To call upon the United States Administration to pursue its efforts to restore security and reduce tensions by ensuring the security of and protecting holy sites and by seeing to it that the historical and legal status quo of the holy sites is respected and that Israel fully and immediately annuls its unilateral measures in respect of the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif. The Council stresses that a conflict

could erupt at any moment if the root causes of the crisis are not addressed and, in that connection, draws attention to the commitment of the President of the United States to work to resolve the conflict and achieve peace. It also stresses the need to cooperate to end the political stalemate by launching serious and effective negotiations in order to advance towards achieving peace on the basis of the two-State solution, which provides for the establishment of an independent State of Palestine within the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with internationally recognized resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative. The Council also calls for the consolidation of international efforts, in order to ensure that calm is restored and similar incidents do not occur in future.

11. To call on member States to utilize their bilateral and international relations in order to protect occupied Jerusalem and all its Islamic and Christian holy sites, including the blessed Aqsa Mosque, in order to prevent any future attacks against them.

12. To instruct the Group of Arab States in New York, the Council of Arab Ambassadors and the missions of the League of Arab States to step up their efforts to expose Israeli schemes to alter the historical and legal status quo of the blessed Aqsa Mosque.

13. To strengthen coordination and cooperation between the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in order to protect occupied Jerusalem and the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif.

14. To call on all Arab and Islamic States and organizations, Arab funds and civil society organizations to finance and implement development projects in vital sectors in Jerusalem, in order to save the city, protect its sacred sites and bolster the resilience of its people, by increasing the capital of the Aqsa and Jerusalem Funds by $500 million, in accordance with resolution 677 (28th ordinary session), which was adopted at the Amman summit.

15. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of the present resolution and submit a report on the measures taken in that regard to the Council at its next session.

16. To keep the Council in session in order to monitor developments and Israeli violations against the blessed Aqsa Mosque, and the extent to which Israel, the occupying Power, refrains from once again taking inflammatory measures that threaten the security and stability of the Holy City and undermine the historical and legal status quo of the Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif.

(Resolution 8160 — extraordinary session — 27 July 2017)

United Nations S/2017/730

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 August 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 22 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

As part of the ongoing efforts of the Syrian Arab Republic to uncover evidence proving that armed terrorist groups possess toxic chemicals and that terrorists have used such substances in various areas of Syria, and further to our previous letters, which contained copious information on that issue, we have received information that the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant in the city of Raqqah possesses large quantities of chemical weapons (nerve gas, ricin, chlorine and sulphur dioxide), acquired under the supervision of the American Paul Cortez (Abu Kamit). Cortez, also known as Abu al-Kimiya, was accused of murder and rape in Iraq in 2003. According to this information, the terrorist organization plans to use those substances when the battle of Raqqah nears its end.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that those terrorist organizations would not have been able to acquire such toxic chemicals and use them whenever and wherever they liked without the support of certain States. We stress that such practices will not deter us from our continuing efforts to defend our homeland and expose the methods of those conspiring against it.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates hopes that the Security Council will treat these issues with the seriousness they deserve and expose those States that have provided such capabilities to terrorist groups for their despicable ends. The actions of those States will ultimately lead to such weapons falling into the hands of terrorist groups, and later, an accusatory finger will be pointed at those Governments that spare no effort in fighting terrorism and preventing terrorists from acquiring chemical weapons or other weapons of mass destruction, which pose a significant threat to global security and stability and the future of all humankind.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Minister Plenipotentiary

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United Nations S/2017/731*

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 August 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 23 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 2 August 2017, the United States of America, also on behalf of France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reportedly submitted a report to you and the Security Council regarding the test launch of the Simorgh satellite launch vehicle, claiming that the launch was inconsistent with paragraph 3 of annex B to Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). That claim is neither technically correct nor legally sound. It is a matter of serious concern that some permanent members of the Security Council misrepresent the provisions of Security Council resolutions and obfuscate the facts for biased political objectives. In that regard, I would like to bring to your attention and to the attention of the Security Council the following points for clarification:

(a) On 27 July 2017, as part of the inauguration of the Imam Khomeini National Space Station, which oversees the preparation, launch, control and steering of the satellite launch vehicles, the Simorgh satellite launch vehicle was test launched by the Islamic Republic of Iran. That is merely part of a scientific and technological activity related to the use of space technology in such areas as disaster management, environmental monitoring and natural resource management, communication, human health, food security and sustainable agriculture, which are common features and requirements of the socioeconomic development of every society. This is an inherent right of any State and, for its part, the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to continue to exercise this right for its socioeconomic interests;

(b) The aforementioned report is basing its argument on the criteria used in the Missile Technology Control Regime and is attempting to imply that the definition of that 35-member exclusive and closed political club, serving the commercial and security interests of its members, is an "internationally accepted definition"! However, interestingly, according to the Missile Technology Control Regime documentation, there is a clear difference between "ballistic missile systems" and "space launch vehicles";

(c) It is also an acknowledged fact that satellite launch vehicles are designed for placing satellites into orbit, not delivering warheads. The technical characteristics and operational requirements of the satellite launch vehicles clearly make them distinct from ballistic missile systems. The Simorgh satellite launch vehicle, which is designed and developed exclusively for placing satellites into orbit, is no exception;

* Reissued for technical reasons on 1 September 2017.

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(d) Whereas the Simorgh satellite launch vehicle does not even fall into the category of ballistic missiles, let alone one "designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons", as referred to in annex B to resolution 2231 (2015), it is quite clear that its test launch is not covered, in any way, by resolution 2231 (2015) and, accordingly, could not be regarded as inconsistent with that resolution. As there is no technical or legal basis in resolution 2231 (2015) on satellite launch vehicles, the drafters of the aforementioned report have unsuccessfully resorted to using the phrase "if configured as a ballistic missile" at several instances in their report, in order to establish an imaginary link between resolution 2231 (2015) and the test launch of the Simorgh satellite launch vehicle. The fact that they have based their argument about the inconsistency of the test launch of Simorgh satellite launch vehicle with resolution 2231 (2015) on completely incorrect technical assumptions and "ifs" proves the incorrectness and falsehood of their conclusion;

(e) The claim of the inconsistency of the test launch of the Simorgh satellite launch vehicle with resolution 2231 (2015) is entirely politically motivated. If such a claim continues, it would endanger the exercise of the inherent right of States to free access to all areas of space and celestial bodies, their freedom in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and their free access to outer space through space science, technologies and their applications without discrimination of any kind;

(f) Considering the above-mentioned facts, I respectfully urge you to refrain from including, in your biannual reports on the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015), issues that are beyond the mandate set forth in the note by the President of the Security Council on Security Council tasks under resolution 2231 (2015) (S/2016/44), as that would inevitably be a disservice to the credibility of the reports.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2017/732

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 August 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 23 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters in this connection, the most recent of which were the identical letters dated 17 August 2017 (S/2017/717), concerning the war crimes and crimes against humanity being perpetrated against innocent Syrian civilians by the "international coalition" led by the United States of America, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

Warplanes of the "international coalition" led by the United States of America have added a new massacre to their criminal record, which is already replete with attacks on civilians and infrastructure. On Tuesday, 22 August 2017, vicious bombing of and successive attacks against densely populated civilian residential areas in the city of Raqqah killed 78 civilians and injured dozens of others, most of them women and children, and caused massive destruction of infrastructure and public and private property in the targeted areas.

United States and "coalition" aircraft persist in attacking Syrian civilians, including women and children, and in destroying infrastructure and cutting off vital lifelines to densely populated civilian areas. Internationally prohibited white phosphorus bombs are being used in these attacks, in flagrant violation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights instruments. Such behaviour demonstrates that successive United States administrations continue to subscribe to the law of the jungle, in contravention of the duties of the United States as a member of the Security Council, which is meant to be dedicated to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its condemnation of the crimes being committed by the "international coalition", which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, and once again calls on the States in whose name those crimes are being committed to withdraw from that coalition and distance themselves from its crimes, especially now that it has become clear that the coalition is performing a destructive role that is opposed to its declared objectives.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also reminds the Security Council of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and calls on it to implement its resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, notably resolution 2253 (2015), and act immediately to prevent the coalition from committing further crimes against innocent civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.